

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

JULY 10, 1969

1. Approval of two mineral lease applications on the Marsh Island Refuge (2)
2. Request for new "Memo of Understanding" for operating and managing the water control structure on Catahoula Lake. (3)
3. Reciprocal agreement with Texas relative to the adoption of uniform sport fishing regulations on all boundary waters including Toledo Bend. (5)
4. Announcement of Teal Season. (7)
5. Request for permit to dredge for fill material to back fill a canal dredged across La. State Wildlife Refuge in Vermilion Parish by Sea Robin Pipeline Co. (9)
6. Approval of application for Union Producing Co. for a drilling site on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. (10)
7. Establish the 1969-70 migratory bird season dates, other than waterfowl. (11)
8. OTHER BUSINESS.

Comments of Mr. Jerry Broadhead relative to the Jonesville Back Water River Locks.

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

July 10, 1969

A Special Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Thursday, July 10, 1969, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The meeting was open to the public and held in the conference room of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission's District VII Office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at 11:00 A. M.

Members present at the meeting were:

H. Clay Wright, Vice-Chairman

Clarence A. Guidry

Hobson Norris

James L. Winfree

ABSENT, due to bad weather:

**Jerry G. Jones, John Edwin Kyle, Jr.
Jimmie Thompson**

Vice-Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 11:00 A. M. explaining that due to bad weather Chairman Jones, Edwin Kyle and Jimmie Thompson would not be present for this meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wright requested Mr. Richard Yancey to explain the first item on the agenda to the Commission.

Mr. Yancey said that the State Mineral Board had received two applications for mineral leases on the Marsh Island Refuge. Both tracts were located on the northern extremity of the refuge. Mr. Yancey said that in view of these two requests, it is requested that Commission approval be granted as all requirements set forth have been met and it is recommended that the State Mineral Board be requested to advertise for bids on this mineral lease sale.

On motion of Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Mineral Board received two applications for mineral leases on the Commission's Marsh Island Refuge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request the Louisiana State Mineral Board to advertise for the mineral lease sale of two tracts of land located on the Commission's Marsh

Island Refuge, with one tract being 1,640 acres and the other being 1,904 acres in size, both being located on the northern extremity of the refuge. Upon advertising the sale of mineral leases those rules and regulations as previously adopted by the Commission shall also be attached to said document in order to protect the wildlife in the area, and comply with the deed of donation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be, and he is, authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Mr. Yancey then advised the Commission that Peter Duffy, our attorney, has determined that the Commission has the authority to grant a tract of land to the Corps of Engineers for purposes of installing a water control structure to be located in the Catahoula Lake diversion canal in LaSalle Parish. He further stated that the structure would be used to manage water levels on Catahoula Lake in the best interest of fish and wildlife, that it would be built by the Corps of Engineers but operated by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, under a water level management plan agreed to by the Corps, the Bureau and the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This was agreed to in 1963 under a memorandum of understanding signed by all three participants.

After considerable discussion on the matter, the Commission decided not to take final action on the site until certain additional information had been made available by the Corps.

On motion of Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Norris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, in 1963 the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife entered into an agreement, known as a memorandum of understanding regarding the installation and operation of a water control structure in the Catahoula Lake Diversion Channel, and

WHEREAS, since that time, the persons whose signatures were authorized personnel representing the agencies involved are no longer holding these respective positions, and the water level management plan has not, at this time, been agreed upon and signed by the three agencies concerned.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request that an operational plan for managing water levels on Catahoula in the best interest of fish and wildlife be developed and signed by all three agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to sign the new memorandum of understanding and that after such an agreement has been drawn up the Commission will then consider the transfer of land.

Mr. Yancey continued by telling the Commission that discussions have been held regarding the advantages of adopting uniform sport fishing regulations for Toledo Bend by Texas and Louisiana in order to simplify and standardize creel limits, etc., for those who fish the lake. Representatives of the Texas Game Fish and Parks Commissions met with members of the Commission's staff recently in New Orleans and everyone agreed that this would be feasible and advisable. We already have a reciprocal agreement pertaining to the recognition of each state's sport fishing license on all of Toledo Bend and this has worked out very well and benefitted both states' sports fishermen.

Vice-Chairman Wright then consulted Harry Schafer, Supervisor of the Fisheries Section, for his opinion on the matter.

Mr. Schafer explained to the Commission that various surveys had been conducted with the sport fishermen of Louisiana, as well as the Commission biologists having taken fish population samples, which proved that if Louisiana were to remove the creel limit on crappie, the boundary waters of

Louisiana would not be harmed in so far as the fish population of crappie were concerned. Mr. Schafer agreed that the two state boundary water regulations should be uniform and that if Louisiana would yield to the Texas creel limit on the fishing, neither state would suffer by any loss.

Colonel Leonard New was then recognized as having mentioned that the catfish limit in Texas was different than that of the State of Louisiana. He mentioned that if the creel limits were uniform for both States, that the enforcement problem would be greatly relieved. He further explained that it was very difficult to enforce the laws of Louisiana on the lake because the state's boundaries are not marked down the center of the lake. Therefore, Colonel New also recommended and requested Commission approval on uniform creel limits for a reciprocal agreement with the State of Texas.

Mr. Yancey then briefly summarized the request in explaining that the best course of action would be to standardize the creel limits on all sport fishes in Toledo Bend by the adoption of a new reciprocal agreement by both states.

On motion of Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Morris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Commission personnel have met with representatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the purpose of formulating guide lines whereby uniform sport

fishing regulations on Toledo Bend, or on all boundary waters by both Texas and Louisiana could be agreed upon.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the adoption of a reciprocal agreement with Texas to standardize creel limits pertaining to sport fishes on Toledo Bend or upon all boundary waters in the interest of sound fish management and to simplify the regulations for sport fisherman who use these waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby agree to the following bag limits and means and methods of sport fishing, but that the reciprocal agreement shall not go into effect until after both states have executed same:

Bag Limits

Bass	15 per day
Catfish	No bag or possession limit
White Bass	No bag or possession limit
Crappie	No bag or possession limit
Bream	No bag or possession limit
Other species	No bag or possession limit

Mr. Yancey then pointed out that Louisiana was being allowed another September Teal Season this year by the U. S. Interior Department, along with the other states in the Mississippi and Central Flyways. It took many hours of hard and trying effort on the part of the Commission, its staff personnel and the Louisiana Congressional delegation

before the state was again granted such a season. When we were first notified, we were very dissatisfied with the framework dates, which extended only from September 1st to September 15th, since this would mean that our hunting season would take place before huntable numbers of teal migrated into the state. Therefore, we again negotiated for a better framework by making a trip to Washington and managed an extension of September 1st through September 21st, with a bag limit of four (4) and a possession limit of eight (8). This, of course, was more pleasing to the sportsmen. Since there was a very close time limit on the reply to Washington, the Director had to reply in the absence of the Commission as to the best possible dates for the teal season for Louisiana. Therefore, Mr. Yancey requested Commission ratification on the dates of the teal season of September 13th through September 21st.

On motion of Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, for many years the State of Louisiana has requested an early September Teal Season, and

WHEREAS, through the continued efforts of the Commission personnel and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the State of Louisiana was finally awarded an early September Teal season.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the action of Director Hoffpauer in designating the dates of the early September Teal Season to begin on September 13th and to run consecutively for nine (9) days until September 21st, 1969, with the bag limit of four (4) and the possession limit of eight (8).

Vice-Chairman Wright then requested Dr. Lyle St. Amant to explain the Sea Robin Pipeline Company request.

Dr. St. Amant stated that the Commission received a request from Sea Robin Pipeline Company for a permit to dredge for fill material to backfill a canal dredged across the Louisiana State Wildlife Refuge. Dr. St. Amant said the request had been examined and found to meet all of the requirements as set forth by the Commission; therefore, he recommended Commission approval on the issuance of the permit.

On motion of Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve for the issuance of a permit to Sea Robin Pipeline Company to dredge for approximately 160,000 cubic yards of fill material to be taken from Hell Hole Bayou and Portage Lake in Vermilion Parish.

Said fill material is to be used for backfill in certain parts of a canal dredged across the Louisiana State Wildlife Refuge, in Vermilion Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the the Director be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Vice-Chairman Wright then asked Mr. Allan Ensminger to explain the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Ensminger told the Commission that by letter dated June 17th, the Union Producing Company requested permission to excavate an access canal, located on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. He stated that the proposal had been examined and found to be in order, provided said company would agree to adhere to certain terms and conditions as stipulated in the agreement.

On motion of Mr. Guidry, seconded by Mr. Norris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the Union Producing Company to excavate an access canal on State Lease No. 2340, located on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Said permission is hereby granted provided the Union Producing Company agrees to adhere to certain terms and conditions as stipulated in the

agreement which shall be binding upon said concern for the benefit and protection of the wildlife and fisheries resources in the area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Joe Herring was then requested to explain to the Commission the migratory bird framework and biological recommendations. Mr. Herring then read the following U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife framework for the 1969-70 seasons: RAILS (King, Clapper, Sora and Virginia), 70 consecutive full days, between September 1st and January 15th; WOODCOCK, either 65 consecutive full days or 2 periods totaling 65 days, between September 1st and January 31st; MOURNING Doves, either 70 consecutive half-days or two (2) or three (3) periods totaling not more than 70 days, between September 1st and January 15th; COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIFE, for 50 consecutive full days, between September 1st and January 31st; and GALLINULES, for 70 consecutive full days, between September 1st and January 15th; and which seasons are to be held in abeyance of the Federal rules and regulations as issued in accordance therewith. Mr. Herring then read the biologists recommendations which were accepted by the Commission.

On motion of Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife did send the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission the framework dates and rules and regulations for the migratory bird season for 1969-70,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby set and announce the following migratory bird season for 1969-70:

RAILS: (KING, CLAPPER, SORA AND VIRGINIA):
70 consecutive full days, November 1, 1969 to January 9, 1970.

WOODCOCK: 65 consecutive full days, November 27, 1969 to January 30, 1970.

MOURNING DOVES: 3 periods totaling not more than 70 days, September 1st, 1969 to September 14, 1969; October 11, 1969 to November 16, 1969; December 17, 1969 to January 4, 1970.

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIFE: 50 consecutive full days December 13, 1969 to January 31, 1970/

GALLINULES: 70 consecutive full days, September 1, 1969 to November 9, 1970.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said rules and regulations as set forth by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife be and are hereby adopted.

Vice-Chairman Wright then asked if there was any other business to come before the Commission.

Mr. Jerry Broadhead of Pineville, Louisiana then requested the Commission's assistance in trying to have the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers maintain a minimum of thirty-five (35) feet water level on the Jonesville Back Water River Lock project. Mr. Broadhead explained that there are thirty-three (33) camps in the area and it is the desire of the owners to have the water level maintained.

After detailed discussion on the Jonesville Back Water Project, it was decided that the matter would be investigated by Commission's biologists and a report would be made on the matter.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Clark M. Hoffpauer
Clark M. Hoffpauer,
Director